

Agriculture Update

Ontario farmer's curling bonspiel set

Ontario farmers will have a chance this winter to compete in a new provincial curling bonspiel for farmers only.

The Ontario Provincial Farmers' Curling Championship is scheduled for Jan. 20-22, 1989, at the Sydenham Community Curling Club in Wallaceburg. It is sanctioned by the Ontario Curling Association.

To be eligible to participate, rinks must certify that all members are actively engaged in farming.

Ron Scheurkogel, marketing communications manager for BASF Canada Inc., which is sponsoring the bonspiel, said his company will sponsor provincial contests in Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and

Alberta in 1989.

Within a year or two, the company's goal is to sponsor a na-

tional Canadian Farmers' Curling Championship.

"The idea for a farmers' bonspiel

originated in Ontario in 1986 and was an immediate success,"

Scheurkogel said. "As more and

more farmer-curlers participated, we decided to extend the concept across Canada."

Law at end of June

Fuel storage tanks must be leak proof

Under the new Gasoline Handling Act, which became law at the end of June, anyone with underground fuel storage tanks has until Jan. 1 1991, to prove they are protected from external corrosion.

And fuel suppliers have until the

end of this month to notify the provincial director of fuel safety of the names and addresses of anyone with underground storage.

Farmers who cannot prove from documentation that their tanks can't leak will have to dig them up

to show they are not corroded.

In addition, according to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, there are rumors that the province is planning to introduce a law requiring owners of above-ground tanks to surround them with dykes

with the capacity to contain any potential fuel leakages.

Drought relief plan

Twenty farm groups across the country have agreed upon a drought relief program which could cost up to a billion dollars.

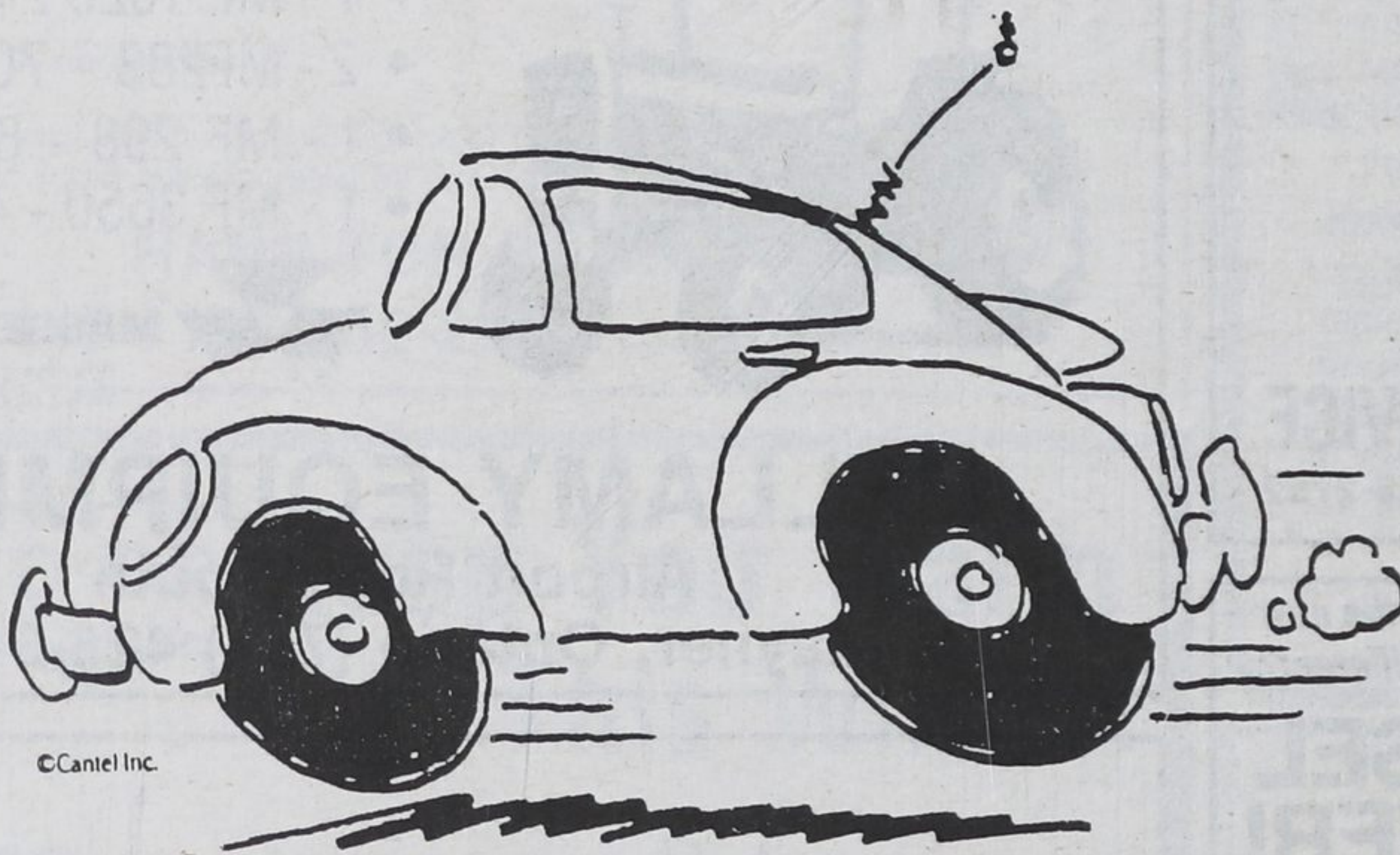
The program, which might involve provincial participation, is one that the Ontario Federation of Agriculture hopes will be agreed to before the end of the current federal election campaign.

Unusually dry weather in the summer devastated crops in many parts of the country including south western Ontario.

Locally, yields of spring sown grains are down about fifty per cent from last year. But in more westerly counties, the situation was much worse.

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